Tobacco exported to Russia during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the exporters cut each other and under priced the Tobacco;

(c) if so, what is the total loss of export earnings to the national due to this; and

(d) what steps are being taken to avert this underpricing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Unit value realisation of FCV tobacco exported to Russia during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Unit value (Rs./Kg.)
1990-91	32.77
1991-92	39.57
1992-93	66.24

(b) to (d) In a commercial crop like tobacco where factors like international situation and domestic demand are crucial, prices are subject to fluctuations.

Carry over Stock of FCV Tobacco

4245. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expected quantity of carry-over stock of F.C.V. Tobacco for the next year, both from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and what is the impact on the market of tobacco during the coming year; and

(b) what steps are being taken to avert the crises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The likely carry-over stock of tobacco projected by the Tobacco Board for the next year is about 54 M. Kg. The large carry over stock could result in reduced buyers participation in auctions, lack of competitions in auction floors, storage problems for fresh crops, and reduced bank credit.

(b) Tobacco Board has taken steps to reduce the crop size, not to licence production in black soil regions, advising farmers through publicity not to go for excess/unauthorised plantation, and to help the farmers to switch over to alternate crops.

Tobacco as a Plantation Crop

4246. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to declare tobacco a plantation crop and bring all aspects of tobacco, including its export under one Ministry;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the criteria adopted by Government for declaring any crop coming under the definition of a plantation crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Some of the parameters for plantation crops are long gestation of the crops, exemption from land ceiling Act etc. Tobacco is an annual crop, which is subject to the land ceiling laws. There is no proposal to declare tobacco as a plantation crop.

Proposal for uniting EPZ Units as a Federation

4247. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether units in the Export Processing Zones (EPZ) in the country propose to unite in a federation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Some units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have formed Zone-wise Industries Associations. However, the Government is not aware of the actual formation of any Federation